

SECRETSAPC 24833
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27 February 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR : Project Director
 THROUGH : Project Director of Administration [initials]
 SUBJECT : CIA Presentation to AFCIN-Z, Scheduled for
 19 March 1958

1. On 12 February 1958 the Project Security Staff was advised that a presentation was to be given to AFCIN-Z on 19 February 1958, and that a portion of that presentation called for an exposé of Project AQUATONE. Efforts were immediately made to obtain a list of the personalities who would be in attendance at this meeting, however, only six names could be obtained. Of those six names only two held AQUATONE clearances. The uncleared individuals represented ATIC, Army and CIA. As a result of these findings [redacted] was contacted and requested to supply the Project Security Office with a complete list of the proposed attendance for the purpose of determining their clearance status. [redacted] appeared very annoyed at this request, and questioned whether it was our intention to hold up this meeting due to certain members not having AQUATONE clearances. He advised that he had been given the authority to brief anyone he considered necessary for his work, and that he did not consider this a matter of AQUATONE concern. He continually referred to the fact that all persons invited to this meeting held TALENT clearances, and that until he had something in writing that was contrary to current written authorization he would proceed as planned. He also commented that to change the procedures now would be like closing the barn door after the cattle have been stolen.

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2. This matter of AQUATONE being discussed at an AFCIN meeting has since become a matter of extreme concern to General McClelland, the Director of Communications. The information which has reached this office and General McClelland has been reported by [redacted]

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[redacted] a scheduled participant in the AFCIN-Z presentation. [redacted] is Project cleared and has been fully briefed on Project AQUATONE matters. He had occasion to question the exposé of Project AQUATONE at a rehearsal of the CIA presentation to AFCIN which was given by

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[redacted] of the ESO's office. [redacted] felt that the presentation of AQUATONE information exceeded the classification of the proposed meeting since it described the vehicle, its operational ceiling and complete technical characteristics. He called this to the attention of the ESO stating that a TALENT clearance was not a ticket to AQUATONE information and vice versa. [redacted] replied to the effect that he was authorized to inform certain people of Project AQUATONE when he felt it was necessary for them to know certain aspects of the Project. Efforts to pursue the conversation, according to [redacted], were fruitless since [redacted] chose to avoid the subject from that point on.

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3. The AFCIN-Z meeting originally scheduled for 19 February 1958 has since been postponed until 19 March 1958 due to the recent heavy snow storm causing cancellation of the original date. This office has attempted to obtain a complete list of persons attending the re-scheduled meeting, but have had no success. It has been explained to [redacted] that it is not our intention to prevent his presentation, however, it will be necessary for us to grant clearances to all persons made knowledgeable of AQUATONE before they receive any information.

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4. In view of the contrary attitude [redacted] has taken in this matter, I find it necessary to seek your assistance in obtaining ESO cooperation in matters dealing with clearances of personnel. I must apologize for having to ask your assistance, however, I feel it a necessity since our efforts to convince [redacted] of our need to know have failed.

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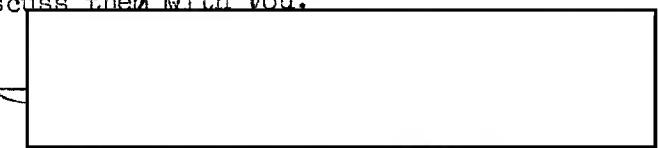
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5. The Security Staff is not aware of any written authority given to [redacted] to brief as he sees fit without advising this office of the names of the persons being briefed. It is recognized that there may be complete justification for the briefing conducted by [redacted] and we, in no way, wish to interfere with his operations. However, as we do have the responsibility for Project Security, I believe, we accordingly, have every right to insist on the receipt of clearance requests.

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6. Your attention in this matter would be greatly appreciated and should you have any suggestions in the handling on this specific situation I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

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Acting Project Security Officer

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